



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. D. CONNOLLY, M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

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Health Committee :

Alderman F. Garratt, *Chairman*

Alderman C. H. Averill	Councillor J. Baker
Ald. Miss A. M. Thompson	Councillor C. W. Bridgeman
Alderman F. Williams	Cllr. Mrs. G. E. L. Caswell
Councillor A. L. Garratt	Councillor H. J. Hall
Councillor J. S. Tayler	Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
(Alderman R. J. Nevill)

Medical Officer of Health :

P. D. CONNOLLY, M.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A. F.S.I.A., F.R.San.I.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1948.

*To The Chairman,
Health Committee,
City of Lichfield.*

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit herewith my report on the health of the City of Lichfield for the year 1948.

My predecessor, Dr. A. Mathieson, retired on the 25th of February, 1948, and I took over his duties from the 15th of April, 1948.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. D. CONNOLLY,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to

Registrar General—10,170.

Estimated resident population according to Food Office—10,875.

Number of inhabited houses—estimated 2,680.

Rateable Value—£59,099.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£230.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...		105	95	200
Illegitimate	...	...		3	5	8
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				108	100	208
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population—20·5.

Still Births—				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...		1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...		0	0	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				1	1	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of population—0·3.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births—14·2.

				Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	...		49	62	111

Death Rate per 1,000 of population—10·9.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...		7	1	8
Illegitimate	...	...		0	0	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				7	1	8
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

All Infants per 1,000 live births—38·4.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—40·0.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0·0.

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
Typhoid Fever.....	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Diphtheria.....	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3
Other Tuberculosis .....	...	...
Syphilis .....	...	...
Influenza .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	...	...
Cancer	6	7
Diabetes .....	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	2	5
Heart Disease	15	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4
Bronchitis ..	5	4
Pneumonia .....	...	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach .....	...	...
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	...
Appendicitis	1	...
Other Digestive Diseases.....	...	...
Nephritis .....	...	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	...
Other Maternal Causes	—	...
Premature Birth	4	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	1	1
Suicide .....	...	...
Road Traffic Accidents .....	...	...
Other Violent Causes	1	1
All Other Causes	7	16
TOTALS—All Causes ...	49	62

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	0
„ other Maternal causes ...	...	0
„ Cancer (all ages) ...	...	13
„ Measles (all ages) ...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	0
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	...	2

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates of certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948.

(Provisional Figures).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.	LICHFIELD.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS					
Live	17·9	20·0	19·2	20·1	20·5
Still	0·42	0·52	0·43	0·39	0·3
DEATHS					
All Causes ...	10·8	11·6	10·7	11·6	10·9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough...	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·00
Diphtheria... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00
Tuberculosis ...	0·51	0·59	0·46	0·63	0·49
Influenza	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·02	0·00
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·00
Pneumonia ...	0·41	0·38	0·36	0·54	0·19
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ...	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Cerebro-Spinal Fev.	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03	0·10
Scarlet Fever ...	1·73	1·90	1·82	1·37	1·25
Whooping Cough	3·42	3·51	3·31	3·13	1·66
Diphtheria	0·08	0·10	0·09	0·10	0·19
Erysipelas	0·21	0·23	0·21	0·22	0·19
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	9·34	9·75	8·84	9·17	2·84
Pneumonia	0·73	0·84	0·60	0·57	0·19
Acute Poliomyelitis	0·04	0·05	0·04	0·04	0·10
Acute P'encephalitis	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
DEATHS	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All Causes under 1 year of age	34	39	32	31	38
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age...	3·3	4·5	2·1	2·4	9·6
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6·89	8·90	4·71	7·34	48

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases notified, together with the age groups.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Total Deaths
		Under 1 year	1 and 2 under 2	2 and 3 under 3	3 and 4 under 4	4 and 5 under 5	5 and 10 under 10	10 and 15 under 15	15 and 20 under 20	20 and 35 under 35	35 and 45 under 45	45 and 60 under 60	60 and over	
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	13	...	...	...	2	...	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	17	1	1	2	2	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	29	...	3	3	2	2	18	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	77	1	4	5	6	4	39	1	3	9	2	2	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during the year 1948 are set out in the following table :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5— .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15—	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
45—	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	6	7	2	...	2	3	...	...

Infectious Disease.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease. One sporadic case of anterior poliomyelitis occurred and another sporadic case of cerebro-spinal meningitis. The incidence of measles and whooping cough was low and the mortality nil.

There were two cases of diphtheria recorded. One was a nasal infection in a child of 4 years and another in a man of 28 years. Neither had been immunised.

Ten cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. They were sporadic in incidence and there was no evidence of a streptococcal carrier being responsible. But the figure, 48 per 1,000 live and still births, is high compared with the general incidence in England and Wales (6·89 per 1,000 live and still births) though the relatively small number of births locally makes even one extra case of Puerperal Pyrexia unduly prominent statistically.

Food Poisoning.—No cases were notified during 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under 5 years immunised during the year	234
Number of children between 5 and 15 years immunised during the year	96
Percentage of children under 5 years who have been immunised	61
Percentage of children between 5 and 15 years who have been immunised	76
Total percentage of children under 15 years who have been immunised	71

Hospitals.

The Victoria Hospital has 34 general beds and X-Ray facilities.

The St. Michael's Hospital (formerly the Public Institution) has 146 general hospital beds and 13 for children. On the "Institution" side there are 44 beds for chronic and elderly cases. The Nursery section has 2 beds and 30 cots. I am informed that 14 beds are unused because of shortage of nursing staff.

The "Carclew" Nursing Home has 2 rooms and 3 beds for general patients.

The Wissage Isolation Hospital—60 beds are available for infectious cases.

Ambulances.

On the 5th July the Ambulance service became a County Council organisation under the National Health Act. An ambulance is always available for non-infectious and another for the removal of infectious cases.

A special ambulance with a team of protected drivers and orderlies is available at Stafford for the removal of Smallpox cases.

Maternity Accommodation.

There are 11 maternity beds at the Victoria Hospital (235 cases delivered during 1948); at St. Michael's Hospital 14 beds (207 cases delivered during 1948); and 1 at the "Carclew" Nursing Home (11 cases delivered during 1948).

These maternity cases are drawn from a wide area. During the year Lichfield mothers were confined as follows :—

At home	...	...	...	...	90
Victoria Hospital	...	...	...	...	65
St. Michael's Hospital	...	...	...	...	39
Other Hospitals and Nursing Homes	...				14
					<hr/> 208 <hr/>

The following Clinics, under the administration of the Staffordshire County Council are held at the Sandford Street Centre :

School Clinics—Minor ailments—Daily.
Medical Officer's clinic—Fortnightly.

Dental Clinics—Daily (except at intervals of School Dental Inspections).

Ophthalmic Clinics—Every 3 weeks.

Orthopaedic Clinics—Fortnightly.
Treatment and exercises are carried out daily.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics—Fortnightly.

Infant Welfare Clinics—Weekly.
Under Midland Hospital Board administration.

T.B. Clinics—Weekly.

V.D. Clinics—V.D. is not treated locally. Regular advertisements are made in the local press of the times of clinics at Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Stafford Hospitals.

Laboratory Work.

Excellent laboratory facilities are available at Stafford and full use is made of their services.

Housing.

Of 124 houses approved for the 1948 programme by the Ministry of Health, 96 were completed during the year. Seventeen private houses were approved and completed. Lichfield stands high in the whole country as regards the number of houses completed by local authorities of comparable size.

At the beginning of the year there were approximately 400 names on the list of applicants. By the 31st of December this number had increased to 555.

Fifty-two premises had been condemned for human habitation before the war but their demolition was deferred because of the war emergency. It is estimated that another 75 houses should now be dealt with at an early date and a further 75 are likely to be included in demolition or clearance orders before the standard of housing can be said to be satisfactory.

Despite the relative success of the housing programme there is still a long way to go before the problem can be said to be solved.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and is chlorinated. Regular routine sampling is done by the company's chemist. Two samples were taken by this department during the year—both were satisfactory. The number of houses without an internal water supply and served by an outside standpipe is 41. Two houses on the town's periphery are served by wells.

Swimming Baths.

Because of building restrictions it was impossible to proceed with plans for a new swimming pool though it is fully recognised that the present baths are not up to modern standards. Within their limitations they are maintained reasonably satisfactorily—the water is changed twice weekly and "chloros" added to control bacterial growth.

REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

At the end of 1947 reference was made to the unusually large number of complaints from householders regarding various kinds of disrepair. This tendency was again evident during the year 1948, and appears to be a feature of post-war sanitary administration in nearly all districts.

Work in connection with structural repairs is still difficult because of continued shortages of labour and materials. A further aggravating circumstance is the relatively low rents of some of the older houses, which means that some owners find it hard to meet the cost of repairs under present conditions. Consequently many re-inspections have to be made to ensure that notices are complied with. The under-mentioned inspections and visits were made :—

Houses—Public Health Act	...	...	164
Houses—Housing Act	...	...	25
Complaints received and investigated	...		150
Housing Applications investigated	...		105
Building Licensing	...	...	270
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	24
Factories	...	...	35
Shops—under Shops Acts	...	...	30
Slaughter-houses	...	...	12
Markets	...	...	40
Re-visits to premises under notice	...		120
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	45
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	20
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...		25
Sampling Visits	...	...	29
Piggeries	...	...	8

NOTICES.

Particulars of Notices served during 1948 are as follows:—

Informal Notices served	...	68
Informal Notices complied with	...	62
Statutory Notices served	...	4
Statutory Notices complied with	...	3

CORRESPONDENCE.

Apart from Notices and official forms, 219 letters were received and 269 despatched.

BUILDING LICENSING.

The total number of licences issued was 267. Most of these were in respect of works of repair and maintenance. No application was rejected, though it was necessary in some cases to explain that only works of an essential character could be permitted. Notices requiring structural repairs to property were accompanied by an application form for a licence, this procedure being adopted to avoid unnecessary delay.

HOUSING.

No progress was made with the houses already included in Clearance Areas. Until the occupants can be re-housed without detriment to applicants on the housing list, the unfit houses must remain occupied. Regular visits are made to ensure that they are kept reasonably weather-proof.

During the year 105 housing applications were investigated under the Points Scheme. This work is of particular importance because it not only enables the House-Letting Sub-Committee to determine the more deserving cases but affords opportunities for getting serious structural defects remedied. When the investigations were commenced enquiries were confined principally to those in lodgings. These visits showed that whilst many of these families are not overcrowded within the meaning of the Housing Act, their bedroom accommodation is nearly always inadequate.

At the end of the year it was too early to assess the merits of the Points Scheme for house-letting. It became clear, however, that an improvement had been effected by the introduction of this method. Although not infallible, the system has the advantage of disclosing cases which call for early investigation. The operation of the scheme should also provide the City Council with reliable data regarding the housing needs of the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The cowsheds and dairies in the City were inspected at regular intervals. In spite of the difficulties associated with labour, the improved standards which have been noticed at these premises during recent years were well maintained. One cow-keeper holds a licence for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and there are three farms licensed for Accredited milk.

Crowsnest Dairies Ltd. hold a licence for Tuberculin Tested milk. Towards the end of the year the work of providing a new Pasteuriser and a new Bottling Plant at this dairy was well in hand. This will result in a notable improvement, as the whole of the school milk will be pasteurised.

Samples of designated milk for examination at the Medical Research Laboratory at Stafford are taken at regular intervals. During the year 21 samples were submitted, 7 of which failed, but most of the failures were in connection with heat-treated milk. These are not likely to occur when the new plant is in operation.

The under-mentioned articles were found to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed :—

27 jars of Piccalilli	1 bottle of Lemon Squash
4 jars of Pickles	22 tins of Plums
3 tins of Beet	1 tin of Orange Juice
4 tins of Sardines	4 tins of Pears
3 tins of Salmon	1 tin of Grapes
1 tin of Crayfish	2 tins of Fruit
9 tins of Pilchards	2½ lbs. of Prunes
77 tins of Mussels	1 tin of Rhubarb
93 tins of Smoked Herring	1 tin of Cherries
Spread	1 tin of Grapefruit
3 tins of Crab Paste	1 tin of Grapefruit Juice
2 tins of Danish Pork	3 tins of Apricots
1 tin of Bacon	1 box of Dates
11 tins of Meat Lunch	3 tins of Jam
4 lbs. of Meat	2 tins of Golden Syrup
1 tin of Ox Tongue (6 lb.)	15 tins of Marmalade
2½ stone of Cod Fillets	105 tins of Peas
3 tins of Steak	10 tins of Tomato Juice
1 tin of M & V Ration	8 tins of Tomatoes
1 box of Cheese	3 tins of Mixed Vegetables
14 tins of Soup	2 tins of Carrots
119 tins of Evaporated Milk	29 tins of Beans
12 tins of Full Cream Milk	1 tin of Spinach
1 tin of Irish Stew	2 jars of Olives

OTHER DUTIES.

During the year 35 licences were issued in respect of places for the storage of petroleum. In the case of new applications, an arrangement has been made whereby proposals for storage are referred to the Fire Prevention Officer before a licence is granted.

As regards Hackney Carriages, the licensing committee felt there was a need for a more adequate service in the City, and during the year 12 licences were issued.

